

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1950

DEPTO 07

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S), UN, PFOR, FI

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

MATTILA

1. DURING 45-MINUTE MEETING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER MATTILA SEPTEMBER 4, I OPENED BY REITERATING ADMIRATION FOR WAY IN WHICH FINLAND HAD HOSTED CSCE CONFERENCE. I SUGGESTED THAT FINLAND COULD BUILD ON THIS SUCCESS IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA BY UTILIZING ITS INDEPENDENT ROLE TO HELP ALLEVIATE ATMOSPHERE OF CONGRONTATION WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED DC-LDC RELATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS AND INTRODUCE SENSE OF REALITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THIS ESSENTIAL DIALOGUE. I PRESENTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WITH COPY OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH (AS DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN), AND NOTED ITS STRESS ON LDC ACCESS TO THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD. I ALSO TOUCHED ON THE USEFUL ROLE OF FINNISH FORCES UNDER THE UN FLAG, AND BRIEFLY DISCUSSED PREPCON.

2. MATTILA RESPONDED THAT FINLAND STRONGLY DESIRES TO FOLLOW UP ON CSCE WITH EFFORTS AT THE UN, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE US. MATTILA WILL VISIT THE UNGA BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 22 AND HOPES
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FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK, IF ONLY BRIEFLY, WITH SECRETARY

KISSINGER. HE AGREED THAT MOST LDCS EXPECT TOO MUCH BY WAY OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

3. I RAISED THE KOREAN ISSUE IN THE UN, NOTING OUR CONCERN FOR PRESERVATION OF AN ARMISTICE. MATTILA RESPONDED THAT BOTH KOREAS HAVE SOUGHT THE SUPPORT OF FINLAND, THAT THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT INCONCLUSIVELY A FORNIGHT AGO BUT AGREED TO TALK ABOUT IT AMONG THEMSELVES AGAIN IN NEW YORK. ONE OF MATTILA'S COLLEAGUES INTERJECTED THAT FINLAND HAS MAINTAINED A FIRM POSITION OF ABSTAINING ON THE KOREAN ISSUE (IN LINE WITH A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY) INASMUCH AS FINLAND JOINED THE UN AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE KOREAN WAR.

4. I RAISED CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MODERATE FORCES. MATTILA RESPONDED THAT FINLAND HOPES TO ASSIST THE MODERATES BUT OBSERVED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING. (N.B. GOF DOES NOT HAVE RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN LISBON.)

5. I ASKED MATTILA IF FINLAND COULD BE HELPFUL TO INDO-CHINA REFUGEES, PERHAPS WORKING THROUGH THE UNHRC, ICRC, ETC. MATTILA RESPONDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD "KEEP IN MIND" THIS PROBLEM AND WILL TRY TO MAKE INCREASED EFFORTS. ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES NOTED THAT FINLAND IS ALREADY WORKING WITH THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

6. MATTILA ASKED FOR OUR VIEW ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CUBA AND EAST ASIA, TO WHICH I RESPONDED WITH A BRIEF EXPOSITION OF OUR ANALYSIS AND POLICIES.

7. MATTILA CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH AN EXPRESSION OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLEASURE THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD SENT A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CELEBRATION OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S BIRTHDAY.

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8. COMMENT: MY FORMAL CALL ON MATTILA, AS WELL AS MANY INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM DURING SOCIAL OCCASIONS, LEFT THE IMPRESSION OF A MAN AND A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS CAUTIOUS BUT DESIROUS OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US. SEVERAL COMMENTS BY MATTILA AND HIS COMPATRIOTS BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT SUGGEST THAT THE FINNS CONSIDER THEIR HOSTING OF THE CSCE CONFERENCE TO BE A MILESTONE IN THEIR OWN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

THEY SEE THEMSELVES AS EMBARKING ON A MORE INDEPENDENT
COURSE BY WHICH THEY CAN PLAY A ROLE AS A SERIOUS AND
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WHICH BRIDGES SOME OF THE CUR-
RENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE
UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD. I BELIEVE WE CAN COUNT ON
CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL FROM THE FINNS BUT WE WILL HAVE
TO PRESS THEM IN A FRIENDLY BUT FIRM FASHION TO ELICIT
ANY SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITIONS.
INGERSOLL

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